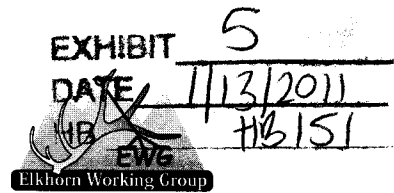


Elkhorn Working Group



January 12, 2011

Montana House of Representatives
Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee
Ted Washburn, Chairman

RE: HB 151 – 7 Year waiting period for either sex elk permits in Hunting District 380

FWP Committee Members:

After reviewing HB-151, the Elkhorn Working Group has voted unanimously that the conditions set forth in this bill should not fall under the jurisdiction of the legislature.

The MFWP Commission has in the past discussed the issues concerning landowner preferences and waiting periods for special permit issuances and at present is proposing a 4-year waiting period for either sex elk permits including those persons getting a landowner preference.

The number of either-sex permits in the bill is a totally biological/scientific annual decision based upon studies and field data and should not be pre-empted by legislative action setting a dangerous precedence in this regard.

Therefore, due to the above-stated reasons, the Elkhorn Working Group feels that this bill should not go forward.

The Elkhorn Working Group is a group of local ranchers, county commissioners, representatives of state and federal agencies, outdoor recreationists and conservationists. The group was chartered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis and Clark Counties. It is the duty of the Group to encourage good stewardship, coordination and cooperation among agencies, permittees and other interested parties in the management of natural resources on public lands in the Elkhorn Mountains area.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Williams
Chairman, Elkhorn Working Group
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